



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - April 30, 2002

- ***In the West***, scattered showers are aiding pastures and small grains from ***northern California to southern Idaho***. Elsewhere in the ***West***, mild weather favors irrigated crops, although soil moisture shortages persist in portions of the ***interior Northwest*** and throughout the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, hot weather is expanding across the ***southern half of the region***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 85 to 100 degrees F. The heat is increasing stress on the drought-affected wheat crop in a broad area centered on ***northwestern Oklahoma***. Meanwhile, cool weather lingers on the drought-ravaged ***northern High Plains***, slowing pasture and wheat development.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers are returning to ***western portions of the region***, slowing summer crop planting but further improving soil moisture reserves. Meanwhile, wet conditions continue to slow fieldwork from the ***Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers and thunderstorms across ***interior sections*** are maintaining favorable soil moisture levels for pasture growth, winter grain maturation, and summer crop development. However, soil moisture is diminishing in the ***Gulf Coast region***, and is depleted to the point of causing stress on dryland summer crops in ***southern Texas*** and parts of the ***southern Atlantic region***.

Outlook: A cold front will bring showers to the ***Great Lakes region*** and below-normal temperatures to the ***northern and central Plains***. Meanwhile, showers will persist along an old frontal boundary in the ***South***. By mid-week, a strong spring storm will develop over the ***central Plains***, accompanied by rain and wet snow in the ***Corn Belt and upper Mississippi Valley***. Rain will spread into the ***Mid-Atlantic and New England States*** during the latter half of the week, with showers likely in the ***Southeast*** by week's end. In the ***West***, periods of rain are likely from ***northern California*** to the ***central Rockies***, before drier weather returns by mid-week. The ***Southwest*** will remain dry, while summer-like heat will persist in ***Texas***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 5-9 calls for above-normal precipitation possible from the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and Plains eastward into the Midwest and Northeast***. Below-normal precipitation is expected in the ***southern Great Plains and in the western Gulf Coast region***. Temperatures are predicted to be warmer than normal from the ***central and southern Rockies eastward to the middle and southern Atlantic Coast States***. Cooler-than-normal conditions are forecast in the ***northern Plains and the Northwest***.

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